A STUDY OF MYTHOLOGICAL ELEMENTS IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF AMISH TRIPATHI

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1) Introduction:

The proposed research concentrates on the mythological elements of the select novels written by Amish Tripathi with special emphasis on his three novels which are collectively called as *'Shiva Trilogy'* which contains *The Immortals of Meluha* (2010), *The Secret of the Nagas* (2011) and *The Oath of Vayuputras(2013).* All these novels are purely religious and mythical in nature. He has used many mythological elements and the references in those there books. Through these books, he tries to prove that when evil reaches the highest proportions and when one seems that everything is lost, a hero will emerge and destroy the enemy. It is a story of Lord Shiva who is considered as the most powerful man. Amish Tripathi is perhaps the first novelist who tried to portray Lord Shiva, the God of Gods in a different manner. He presented Shiva not as the God but a man of flesh and blood who initially was a strong warrior, He was a Tibetan Immigrant but later he was invited by the Suryawanshi emperor, King Daksha and the people of Meluha to save their country from their opponents Chandravanshies.

Shiva Trilogy is the collection of three novels written by Amish Tripathi. It is a story of the Hindu deity Lord Shiva who is presented as a human being of flesh and blood and not as the God or the deity. The author has created the character named Shiva who was a leader of the Guna Tribe. He was the leader of the tribe. He is the Tibetan warrior and the protector of the whole tribe. The Guna Tribe was the tribe which used to live at the foot of the Himalaya at Mount Kailas in Tibet. The tribe was living a very pathetic life. It used to fight with the other local tribes such as Pakartis. Later he was invited by the people of Meluha, which was considered as the land of pure life.

Shiva Trilogy is the novelist of three novels. Lord Shiva is not just imagination. It is the imaginative story of mythological elements. So it is the tribute to the Lord Shiva. It teaches a lesson that all can become greater due to his own *Karma* or the work. Shiva is initially shown as the common man. The story revolves around a mythical character named the Lord Shiva who is considered as the supreme deity of Hinduism. Amish Tripathi has taken the several references from the religious books such as Shiv Puran, Skand Puran, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata.

The present doctoral research concentrates on the critical analysis of three novels of Amish Tripathi and their mythological elements. The first novel selected for the study is *The Immortals of Meluha* which is published in February 2010. It is the foremost and the important book which encompasses many mythological aspects and references. In this chapter, myth plays a very important role. There are many mythological references in this book. It is the story of Shiva who is initially not a god but the human being. He is initially a Tibetan immigrant and the protector of Guna tribe who lives on the Kailas Mountain with his tribe, but later he is invited by the Meluhan people. Nandi is the captain of Meluhan army and later becomes the friend of Shiva. Finally Shiva accepts the proposal and he starts his journey to Srinagar which is the capital city of Devgiri. Daksha is the king of Meluha and the Chandravanshi people. He comes in the land of Meluha which appears to be the perfect land and he becomes the savior of its people. Everybody believes that he is the only one who can save the land from their enemies. Amish Tripathi believes that myths are nothing but the jumbled memories of the true past. A past buried under the mounds of earth and ignorance. There is also a myth of Neelkanth in this text. Shiva the chief of Guna tribe consumes the Somras, thus his throats turns blue making him the Neelkanth of the Meluhan legend which speaks of the appearance of Neelkanth as the destroyer of evil. It's all events are skillfully portrayed in a very unique manner.

The second novel selected for the study is *The Secret of the Nagas* which is published in August 2011. It is the sequel of the debut novel. It includes the same mythical characters as the first book. The places like Kashi, Ayodhya. Branga, Panchvati, Dandak forest etc are well known mythical places where the Indian myths have supposed to happen in an Indian mythology. It also includes the same mythological characters such as Shiva, Sati, Nandim Veerbhadra, Brahspati, Daksha, bhagirath, Kali, Ganesh etc. Many secrets are reveald in this second book. It was portrayed in the first book that Kali and Ganesha were appeared to be the deformed due to their physical deformity, but all the secrets were revealed in the second book. It is confirmed in the second book that both Ganesh and Kali are not the Naga people, but they appear due their physical deformity. It was assumed that it is sin of their previous birth, but it is not so. Thus second novel becomes a grand success as the previous one.

The Oath of Vayuputras is the third and the last novel which is published in 2013. The present book is also selected for the present doctoral research. It is the mythical story of Shiva and other

mythical characters who are also the characters of the first and the second novels of *Shiva Trilogy*. In this book Shiva comes to know about the evil somras which is the root cause of all the evils. He also understands that Daksha is the mastermind behind all the evils. Shiva instantly declares a holy war on those who seek to continue to use it, mainly the emperors Daksha and Dilipa. The book ends with Shiva and his associated being polularized as the Gods for their good deeds and their achievements.

To sum up the novels of Amish tripathi exhibit an unconventional way of plot construction, a skillful characterization, the craftsmanship and thematic aspects. If one wants to understand the book betterly, one need to understand each events of the book. Hence an attempt will be made to analyase critically. The novels are put in proper sequence to understand it better.

2. Objectives of the Study:

1) It investigates the mythological elements in the three select novels of Amish Tripathi.

2) It tries to give in depth analysis of the three select novels.

3) It targets to emphasize on the teaching humanistic values to the society for its welfare.

4) To achieve the full understanding of the process of reader's response to the select novels of Amish Tripathi.

5) To point out the importance and relevance of Amish Triapthi's select novels.

3) Scope of the Study:

There is a lot of scope regarding the select novels of Amish Tripathi because he is the new rising star in Indian writing in English. Hence there are several authors in India those who are writing about the mythological perspective to improve the social conditions for the betterment of the society. The novelists such as Girish Karnad, Shashi Tharoor, Ashish Sanghi, Ashok Banker, Amish Tripathi etc. have written from the mythological perspective. There are now many authors who are working from the same perspective.

The proposed research work gives stress on mythological elements of the three novels of Amish Tripathi. The three novels which include *The Immortals of Meluha*, *the Secret of the Nagas* and

*The Oath of the Vayuputras.*These three novels are the series of three novels collectively known as the *Shiva Trilogy.* So there is a lot of scope in the present research work.

4) Hypothesis :

- Amish Tripathi uses the mythological references from the different religious books.
- Amish Tripathi creates the journey of Shiva a thrilling adventure.
- He creates the curiosity of the readers in an innovative way to capture their attention.
- He teaches morality to the society to improve the social conditions for the betterment of the society.
- He tries to teach the reders to think that everybody should follow moral ethics to run any civilizations satisfactorily.
- Shiva Trilogy explores the philosophy about the theory of evil and destruction of it in his select novels.

5) Tentative Chapter Scheme:

The proposed research work proposes the tentative chapter scheme given below.

Chapter I: **Introduction**

Chapter II : **Mythological Elements in the novel The Immortals of Meluha**

Chapter III: **Mythological Elements in the novel *The Secret of the Nagas***

Chapter IV: **Mythological Elements in the novel *The Oath of the Vayuputras***

Chapter V: **Conclusion**

The first chapter proposes to make an introductory assessment of the mythological aspects of Amish Tripathi's *Shiva Trilogy.* This chapter initially will define the concept of myth and the mythical aspects of his three novels. This chapter will contain the study of the mythological elements in the three novels of *Shiva Trilogy.* This chapter also proposes to make critical assessment of Amish Tripathi's novels.

The second chapter will study about mythological elements, its concept characters, gods, goddesses, demons in the novel *The Immortals of Meluha.* It is the first novel of *Shiva trilogy.*

The debut novel is set in the land of Meluha where Shiva, the warrior and the protector of Guna tribe were invited by the Meluhan people for their own purpose. This chapter focuses on the concept of Hindu myth as an important vehicle to convey a philosophical thesis. This chapter concentrates on the mythological character of Lord Shiva who is initially shown as a Tibetan immigrant and the chief of the Guna tribe i.e. Shiva. Shiva is the principal character in this novel. There are many characters in this novel such as Sati, Ganesh, Kali, Brahaspati, King Daksha etc. It is assumed that Ganesh and Kali are the Naga people due to their deformity. The several mythological places and events will be properly analyzed in this chapter.

The third chapter proposes to make the mythological elements of the second novel entitled *The Secret of the Nagas.* In this chapter too, the same characterization is contained. The novel *The Secret of the Nagas* is the sequel of the first novel *The Immortals of Meluha*. This story takes place in the imaginary land of Meluha and narrates how the inhabitants of that land are saved form their wars by a nomad named Shiva. In this chapter, we will discuss about the mythological elements of Hindu religion. The several mythological references are used in this book too. There is reference of a Hindu god called Lord Ganesha who is initially shown as a deformed creature who is assumed as a Naga who live in the Dandak forest who is thrown due to his deformity. In the same way, there is reference of Kali, the twin sister of Sati. Kali is the aunt of Ganesha. Kali is also thrown out of the society due to her extra hands and the dark colour.

The fourth chapter will focus on the mythological aspects of the book entitled *The Oath of Vayuputras* which is the sequel of the second novel *The Secret of the Naga* and the final book in the *Shiva Trilogy.* In this chapter, the focus will be on the somras which is the true evil in *The Oath of the Vayuputras.* Shiva comes to know about the reality of land of Meluha that is not the pure land but it is the root of all evil. Shiva learns that Meluha is the center of the manufacturing the somras. A holy war is declared on the Meluhan Kingdom by Shiva and requests all the people to stop using it. In this chapter, there will be study of many mythical characters such as Maharshi Brigu, Vidynmali etc. The war ends with the death of Sati but the angry Shiva wanted to use Pashupatiastra to finish Devgiri forever. Finally he destroys the war by destroying the somras manufacturing units.

The fifth chapter entitled ‘Conclusion’ will bring into light all key findings, analysis and the evolution of the mythological elements of Amish Tripathi’s *Shiva Trilogy.* This chapter will also

provide the critical analysis of the relevance and the significance on the research conclusion of *Shiva Trilogy*. It will prove the proposed hypothesis and the aims and objectives of the present research. It will also recommend for the further studies in the concerned subject.

6) Relevance of the Study to the Society:

Amish Tripathi is an Indian author who writes on the Indian mythology. As he is the voracious reader of the world mythology. He is mainly interested in history. The author wished to write a philosophical novels on the theme of the theory of evil and its destruction. So he thought that who could be best option other than the destroyer of evil itself. So Lord Shiva is the destroyer of evil. That's why an author took many mythological references of Lord Shiva and he fantasized his mythological character into a brave warrior named who is a man of flesh and blood. He is not an imaginary person but a live man who did his good Karma so became a god. Myths are something which teaches others something very essential for the present society. *Shiva Trilogy* comes in the same category or tradition. The trilogy discusses many important issues like the patriarchal Indian Society, the general behaviour of the person towards women in the patriarchal society. If one teaches such serious issues through philosophy, People will get bored and and tiresome. So Amish Tripathi has tried to teach other people many moral things through this adventurous story. For the clear understanding of these novels, one must analyze the mythological aspects of the books.

7) Research Methodology:

The research will be based on the critical analysis of Amish Tripathi's three novels which mainly focus on the mythological aspects of Hinduism. The analytical method and the descriptive method will be used in the present research work. The M.L.A. system of research methodology will be followed for the present research work. The proposed research work needs no field work. The three texts of Shiva Trilogy, the research articles, research journals, and reference books will be referred. The discussion will be done with several research scholars for reaching the conclusion in the given work. The proposed research will use descriptive and analytical methods in this research.

8) Probable Date of the Completion of the Work:

The present research is proposed to be completed within the time limit as stipulated by Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded.

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